

State Emergency Service **Media Release**



Friday, 10 July, 2015

Wintery weather prompts warnings from SES

With cold wintery weather being forecast for South Australia over the weekend, the State Emergency Service (SES) is urging homeowners to ensure they are well prepared for the expected rain showers, hail and gusty winds.

SES Acting Chief Officer Dermot Barry said one the best measures homeowners could do was to ensure the gutters and downpipes on their home were free of leaf litter and other blockages.

"With gutters and downpipes blocked the rainwater does not drain away efficiently. This can cause the water to flood back into the roof cavity of the home causing damage to ceilings, insulation and the home's electrical system," Mr Barry said.

He said homeowners could also prepare for the wintery weather by:

- securing or removing loose items and rubbish from around their home because during windy weather they could become potentially deadly missiles
- trimming overhanging branches around their home
- moving motor vehicles are under cover
- ensuring pets and other animals are in a safe area, and
- ensuring their emergency kit is up to date.

"Residents needing assistance from the SES during storms and flooding events should call 132 500 in the first instance. If the matter is life threatening you should call 000," Mr Barry said.

With the Bureau of Meteorology also flagging the possibility of snow in some areas of the state, Mr Barry also advised motorists to drive carefully and to the conditions over the weekend.

"There may be a lot of water, ice, mud and debris such as fallen trees and branches on the roads, particularly in the Mount Lofty Ranges, the Fleurieu Peninsula and the Mid North regions. These can be extremely hazardous to an unsuspecting driver," Mr Barry said.

"Motorists should also never enter flooded creeks and other waterways. Over the years this behaviour has resulted in numerous people across Australia getting washed downstream and, in some cases, drowning," he added.

"Rescuing motorists trapped in floodwater also presents a considerable risk to emergency services personnel who respond to these types of incidents.

Mr Barry said parents should also continually monitor their children around floodwater and make sure they keep well clear.

"By the time it reaches your neighbourhood it is likely to be contaminated with things like animal faeces, all sorts of garbage and chemicals along with tree branches and twisted metal," Mr Barry said.

For media enquires telephone the SES Media Line on (08) 8211 6176

For SES response in floods or storms telephone 132 500. If the matter is life threatening telephone 000
www.ses.sa.gov.au